

:- A PAGE FOR WOMEN AND THE HOME :-

THE DAILY SHORT STORY

The Heirloom Ring.

By HELEN MERRITT.
Copyright, 1916, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

It was a great disappointment to Frank Lloyd to be obliged to leave Linville with his love for Amy Baker undeclared. But the summons home was imperative. "Your father is seriously ill. Come at once," it said. There was a short, sharp struggle in Frank's mind between love and duty, but memories of his father's years of devotion conquered.

The thought of leaving Amy without a farewell interview, and the knowledge that more than one of the Linville young men who regarded him as a dangerous rival would rejoice at his going, spurred him on to take a step which, while against his better judgment, was the only alternative as far as he could see.

So on the afternoon of Frank's departure from Linville Miss Baker received by mail a letter and a registered package. Both were in the same handwriting and after considering for a moment she opened the letter first. "My dear little Amy," it began. "The sudden and serious illness of my father has called me away from Linville. For reasons which I am sure you must guess, I hate to go, but the call is urgent, for my father has been until recently nearest to my heart. I am sending by this mail my ring, a family heirloom. If the love which you must know I feel for you is returned, will you wear the ring until I can replace it with another? When I return, which will be as speedily as possible, if I find the ring on your hand I shall know that my dearest hopes are to be realized. Your devoted lover."

"FRANK."

Shyly and reverently Amy drew the curious and valuable ring from its box. For scarcely a moment did she consider before slipping it on her finger. She kissed it there, with a fervor which brought hot blushes to her face, despite the fact that there was no one to see. Ever since Frank had arrived at the home of her friends, the Deans, to spend the summer with his college chum Geoffrey, he had occupied first place in her heart, and while she had hoped that her love was reciprocated, she had lacked definite assurance until the present moment. Small wonder that her eyes glowed and that she resolved firmly that the treasured ring should never leave her finger until Frank himself removed it. He had not asked her to write, so she kept her sweet secret treasured in her own heart and went around, outwardly the same, but inwardly the happiest girl in the world.

Into this perfect bliss came trouble swift and unexpected. The blow fell on a day when Harold, Amy's younger brother, burst into her room with a face on which horror and despair were jointly pictured.

It was the old story of a young man, tempted to gamble, "borrowing" the funds of the institution which employed and trusted him, until the small pecuniations could be no longer concealed.

Amy listened, white faced, to the piteous recital.

Only for an instant, little book, did I catch that horrified glance from Malcolm Stuart's eyes and then I was jerked roughly and quickly almost off my feet and pulled back to the center of the pier.

Malcolm was not quick enough, however, to save us from a drowning. A great green wave almost knocked us over as it rose in its majesty at the side of the pier, sending a regular water spout over us. Like the silly thing that I am, just as soon as I began to be uncomfortable and wet and shivery, I began to weep.

Now, little book, I want to ask you if you can analyze the human nature that is ready to do and dare to the extent of throwing one's life into the great void of eternity and will whimper like a child because it is wet and uncomfortable.

Surely we are only capable of rising to great heights for a moment and all the rest of the time we are but little things in our material cowardice. We can make up our minds to die if we are sure it will be over quickly, but we shrink from hurt or even from being uncomfortable.

"You did not mean it, Margie—you did not mean it," said Malcolm, his voice hoarse with feeling.

"I thought I did a moment ago," I answered, "but now I am not so sure."

"But," he expostulated, "if you were only to get well to throw yourself into the ocean, why did you go through the operation that has made your recovery?"

"I don't know," I answered stupidly again. "The water beckoned me. Life seemed to hold nothing which could be counted beside rest and peace."

"I should think you had had rest enough in the last year," he remarked, as he gathered part of my skirt in his hands and wrung some of the water out of it.

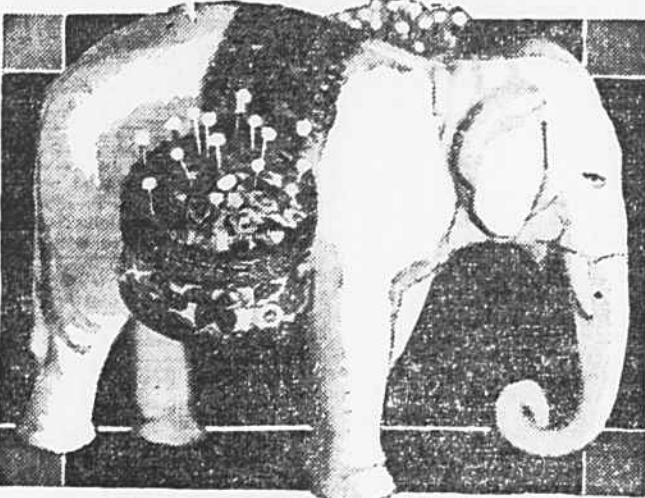
"I perhaps did have physical rest, but you must know no woman would have peace of mind in my condition."

By this time Malcolm Stuart had summoned a chair and put me into it. My teeth were chattering from nervousness more than cold, for the late August morning, although it held a hint of autumn in its storm-washed air and the wind had not yet subsided, was warm and filled with sunshine.

After he had seated me in the chair and told the man to hurry to my hotel, Malcolm walked beside me on the board walk. He had lost his hat and his hair stuck closely to his splendidly shaped head and his wet flannels outlined every muscle in his little body.

In our dishevelled condition we attracted some notice and a policeman came and asked us if he could do any thing for us.

ELEPHANT PIN CUSHION FOR CHRISTMAS



MY LORD, THE ELEPHANT, BRINGS GOOD LUCK AS A PIN CUSHION

BY BIDDY BYE.

Twice lucky should be the one who receives an elephant pin cushion for Christmas for the gift links together an oriental symbol of fortune and an ancient western superstition: "See a pin and pick it up, all the day you'll have good luck."

Elephants are now to be had in all sizes and in all kinds of plastic materials. Accoutered with small boxes in-

"It will kill father and mother if you are arrested for stealing," she said stonily.

Harold flung himself at her feet, clasping her knees.

"They mustn't know, sister," he implored. "Help me to raise the money and restore it and I will promise never to gamble again."

So Amy's few good jewels were taken from their hiding place, and Harold, chastened and subdued, set out to raise money on them to make good his deficiency before it should be discovered. But the most he could raise fell far short of the sum total as needed, and, with despair at his heart, he wended his way back to where his sister tremblingly awaited him.

"It's no use, little sister," he said. "I shall have to pay the penalty. I can't get near enough on your little trinkets."

Amy bowed her head on her hands, and as she did so her brow touched the betrothal ring on her finger.

She looked at it dazedly. It was a valuable ring. It would keep her brother from prison, and her father and mother from the knowledge that the son in whom they took so much pride was a criminal. For only a second she hesitated, then drawing the ring from her finger she handed it to Harold.

"Take it," she said. "It is worth a great deal of money."

Then bursting into tears she turned away from Harold's grateful thanks and sought refuge alone, where she could weep out her heart at the loss of her treasure.

Frank returned unannounced to Linville and went straight to Amy's house. Lights shone from the windows, and as he drew near he could see Amy at the piano. Startled, he gazed at her. One of his closet rivals was bending

stead of cushions, the animal makes a charming boudoir holder and dinner favor.

All sorts of toy animals and dolls' belongings are now dressed up for Christmas pin cushions. The blue bird and the stork carry cushions suspended from their backs. Doll's chairs, tables, sofas and tiny baby carriages make attractive dressing table ornaments when properly upholstered with cushions for pins.

ever her in an attitude of devotion—and Frank's ring was not on her hand.

Seeing, but unseen, he decided that his cause was hopeless, and went as quietly as he had come. Love was not for him. Henceforward he would be a lonely, busy man, attending to big business interests, and allowing no woman to fill his mind.

Six months later Frank was called to a city a short distance from Linville. Seeking shelter from a sudden shower in a pawnbroker's doorway, he glanced carelessly at the window display. To his unbounded astonishment he saw his own ring.

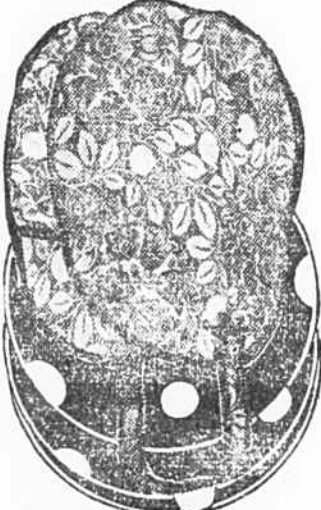
He rushed into the shop and asked to see the ring. His judicious questioning brought out the fact that a young man, who, the pawnbroker remembered, had seemed in great distress, had brought in the ring and other jewelry. From his description Frank had no doubt that Harold had pawned the ring, although examination of the pawnbroker's records gave an entirely different name.

Without loss of time Frank hastened to Linville. He would see Harold and demand the truth. Perhaps—and at the thought his pulses bounded—there was some reason besides indifference for Amy's failure to wear his ring.

He reached the small town at noon, and almost the first person he met was Harold hastening to lunch.

Frank went straight to the point, and Harold, after being convinced that there was a vital reason for the searching questions, broke down and admitted that Amy had pawned her jewels to raise money for him. Then in an-

CIRCULAR BAG



PRACTICAL BAG

By Biddy Bye

A Christmas bag made after the above design may be very elegant or a perfectly practical affair of cotton or crepe suitable for bathroom or kitchen service.

Cut two circles of the material 12 or 14 inches in diameter and a straight strip of the cloth 3 inches wide and 20 inches long. Cut off nine inches of the straight length for a handle. Baste the remainder of the straight piece between the two circles and bind the edges with ribbon or braid. Bind the handle and adjust to its proper place. If silk is used for this bag, line it with china silk and interline it with any kind of stiffening.

swer to Frank's eager questions he said sadly:

"Amy has changed greatly. Whether it was because of my wrongdoing or not I don't know, but from the day she knew of it her health and spirits failed."

So it happened that when Frank, eager and ardent, entered the Baker drawing room, it was a frail shadow of the former blooming girl that turned a languid head to see who was coming. A few minutes later, however, the pale cheeks had taken on a hue of health, the languidness had disappeared, and a new and more beautiful Amy received Frank's betrothal kiss, so long delayed and so ardently desired.

HEALTH HINTS

Scarlet fever is a very contagious disease.

It is easy to catch, but not easy to cure. Like all contagious diseases it is one that no person should get.

Don't try to give it to all your children when one has it.

Some time ago a child in a public school of one large city was taken sick with scarlet fever. Soon after many other cases were reported among children going to the same school. Case after case cropped up for two months, finally the children attending the school were examined by a physician. Seven were found whose skin was peeling and they no doubt were giving the disease to the other children.

These were kept out of school, the children were carefully watched and the epidemic was stopped.

Had the children been thoroughly examined immediately after the first case was found, a large amount of unnecessary sickness would have been avoided.

Children are not the only ones who are attacked by scarlet fever. Persons at all ages may get the disease. In most cases a person who has once had the disease does not get it again.

If your child shows the following signs of illness it may have scarlet fever.

The child suddenly begins to feel tired, restless and out of sorts. Usually there is either a chill vomiting or convulsions. Any or all of these symptoms may be present. The child has high fever. Its skin is very hot and dry. Upon looking into the mouth the tongue is found to be furled. Under this white covering the tongue is red and swollen. Frequently the child complains of sore throat. In ordinary cases these early signs are followed by rash and fever.

HEALTH QUESTIONS ANSWERED

W. A.: "What is psoriasis?"

Psoriasis is an obstinate skin disease that takes long and skillful treatment to cure.

Ice Cream Dealers Elect.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 7.—Speakers at the convention of West Virginia ice cream makers today included C. C. Lewis, Jr., Charleston; W. H. Duff, Pittsburgh; Joseph L. Wilson, Hunt-

TO CHANGE YOUR SKIN!

How to Develop the Highest Degree of Vital, Nervous and Muscular Vigor

Snakes throw off their outer skin once a year. Human beings change their skin perhaps nine times in a year; that is, they have a new skin about once in six weeks.

The value of a clean skin in maintaining health is not properly understood by the majority of people. Cleanliness is a part of health. You cannot be healthy unless you are clean not only externally, but also internally.

The blood should also be assisted occasionally, like the skin, in throwing off poisons so that the system may not get clogged and leave a weak spot for disease germs to enter the system. When the blood is clogged we suffer from what is commonly called a cold.

Dr. Harvey's Golden Medical Discovery purifies the blood and entirely eradicates the poisons that breed and feed disease. It thus cures scrofula, eczema, boils, pimples and other eruptions that mar and scar the skin. Pure blood is essential to good health. The weak, run-down, debilitated condition which so many people experience is commonly the effect of impure blood.

Dr. Harvey's Golden Medical Discovery not only cleanses the blood of impurities, but it increases the activity of the blood-making glands, and it enriches the body with an abundant supply of pure, rich blood.

Take it as directed and it will search out impure and poisonous matter in the stomach, liver, bowels and kidneys, and drive it from the system through the natural channels.

It will penetrate into the joints and muscles, and dissolve the poisonous accumulations. Bad blood is driven out. It will furnish you with rich, pure blood full of vital force—the kind that increases energy and ambition, that rejuvenates the entire body.

ington; C. D. Cooley, Pittsburgh; John Kloss, Wheeling; J. E. Husband, Bluefield; W. L. Monagan, of Cincinnati and others. The association

elects the following officers for the coming year and selected Wheeling as the next meeting place December 17: President, W. M. B. Sine, Clarks-

burg; vice president, S. B. Hamner, Elkins; secretary, C. F. Jamison; treasurer, Joseph L. Wilson, both of Huntington.



Osgood's
for
Quality

The Shop of
Useful Gifts



What shall I give her? A very perplexing problem indeed, but, not so, when you have a store like Osgood's in town. You need but spend a very few minutes here where all about is displayed good useful articles for mother, wife, sweetheart or sister. Each is marked plainly and one can actually wait on themselves. Visit this Gift Shop with your list!

Beautiful Waists

A good looking cotton waist packed in a Christmas box for \$1.00.

Better and more gorgeous waists in silk and Georgette, all new styles and colors, packed individually, priced from \$2.50 to \$12.50.

Furs!

The best article of apparel, the most appreciated gift is a set of good furs. Every new style in the most wanted pelts are here. We guarantee every piece you buy and exchange it after Christmas if not satisfactory.

Priced from \$5.00 to \$75.00 the Set.



Suits, Dresses and Millinery!

Make handsome and appropriate gifts and right now these most wanted articles can be had at from 10% to 25% less than the regular prices. This is good reason why one should make selections early.

Coats!

Winter coats hold first place in selling one can always find what they want here because we replenish our stock almost daily with new arrivals always priced low. \$10 to \$75.

Sweaters

Useful as well as beautiful is our wool and silk sweaters priced \$2.98, \$3.50, \$5.00, \$7.50 to \$10.00.

Hosiery

always an acceptable gift. New hose in effective checks, and stripes in all shades as well as black and white at \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50.

Purses

and pouch bags. Many styles to select from, made of leather, silk and velvet. \$1.00, \$1.25, \$2.28, \$3.50, \$5.00, \$10.00.

Handkerchiefs

A large table full of snowy white kerchiefs all prettily boxed at

25c

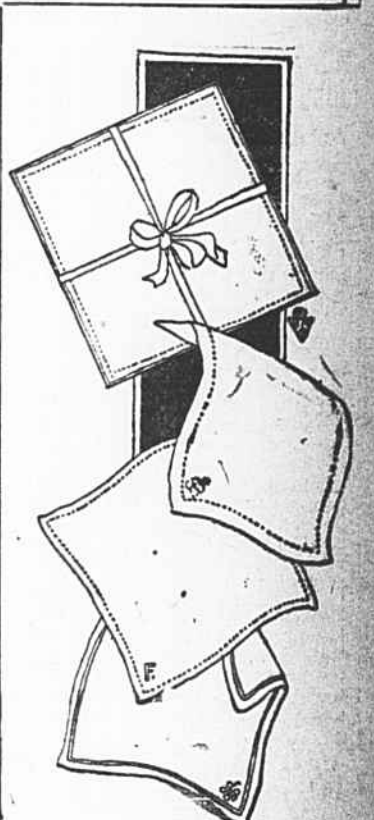
39c

50c

79c

\$1.00

the box



DOINGS OF THE DUFFS—(THIS GUY ALMOST GOT AWAY WITH SOMETHING.)—BY ALLMAN

